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Washington correspondent of the *Chicago Herald* presents the following portrait of Secretary Sherman: "The Secretary of the Treasury is a handsome man, as he sits at his office desk at the head of a long table, with pleasing light in subdued warmth behind him. He has a look of perfect temperance and chastity. He is a man for some years. These two observations alone will make a man beautiful in time. John Sherman is a man of habits; he sits on the money bag of the country, with \$200,000,000 of gold in his vaults, a type of cleanliness."

In order to give effect to the amendment to the constitution adopted last fall, it will be necessary for the legislature to pass a drainage law; and the form of law to be adopted is already a matter of discussion in those parts of the state particularly interested. Thus we see in the *Poor's Transcript* that a largely attended convention was held in Champagne, a few days ago, at which the representatives of that county in the legislature were requested to use their influence in favor of a law embodying the following points:

First—That a board of commissioners be appointed or elected in each township to whom all disputes that shall arise in regard to drainage, etc., shall be referred.

Second—That an appeal can be taken from their decision to a jury of twelve men, who shall hear the facts, and, in case a further appeal is wished for, it shall be to a board of commissioners selected from different townships, whose findings shall be final.

Orders upon the United States Treasury for the new silver dollars are daily increasing. They now average about \$30,000 a day.

During the present year 2,881 buildings have been erected in Philadelphia, a falling off of 2,334 from 1877. There were 1,193 two-story dwellings, 1,067 of three stories and eight of four stories.

There have been distributed during the year from the United States Department of Agriculture over 50,000 tea plants, and as many more will be distributed during the coming year. Commissioner Ladoo is confident of success.

On H. S. OLCOTT, M.D. Blavatsky, and others, representing the theosophists of this country, have gone to the Persian fire-worshippers of Bombay for inspiration. Their reception by the contemplative philosophers of India, and the course of their investigations, will make a curious record. Will they design to explain that they do not represent religious sentiment in America?

JUDON BARNES, who recently died, had devoted many years of his later life to writing a history of the State of Illinois. The manuscript of this history has been placed in the hands of the Chicago Historical Society for publication. Few men were better qualified for such a work, and the work, when printed, will no doubt be a valuable addition to the literature of the State, and its appearance will be looked for with deep interest.

In the month of November there were a total of sixty-eight railroad accidents in the United States, whereby fifteen persons were killed and fifty-four injured. Seven accidents caused the death of one or more persons; thirteen caused injury but no death, while in forty-eight, or 70.6 per cent of the whole number, there was no injury serious enough for record. As compared with November, 1877, there was a decrease of fifteen accidents, of eight in the number killed, and of sixteen in the number injured.

In view of the probability that Dakota Territory, which is rapidly settling up and developing her mining and agricultural resources, will one long apply for admission into the Union as a State, it is gratifying to hear that she is as progressive in her politics as she is in other respects. The official canvass of her recent election for Delegate to Congress gives Greenville G. Bennett, the Republican candidate, a majority of 1,100.

Within eleven months of the present year the receipts of grain at the Atlantic ports have been \$55,971,616 bushels, which is more than 50 per cent greater than those of any previous year, the largest previous receipts for any one year being \$34,923,011 in 1876. The fact has an interest in these figures, and the great bulk of this grain having been shipped from this region.

Nothing seemed for a suitable Christmas gift, don't fail to see the exhibition at J. T. Hubbard's store, such as beautiful cellars, hats, hair, tooth and nail brushes, etc., variety of fancy toilet soap, complete line of the finest perfume in the market. [Dec. 26-27]

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 26.—At 2 o'clock this morning, Charles L. Otto, a jeweler reported to the authorities that his establishment had been robbed of \$2,500 in money and \$10,000 in valuable goods. Sheriff Hitchcock investigated the affair at once, and at daylight this morning arrested Otto himself as the thief. The case is one of the thinnest attempts at self-robbery ever made in this city. Otto had had a large holiday sale, and being heavily indebted to Eastern parties, took this method of getting even. Later in the morning Hitchcock arrested a brother of Otto, who has been here a few weeks, as an accomplice. Otto is a young German, who was married in the last German city, and with his recent escape from prison, he is probably a fugitive.

The President of Mr. Taylor.

Washington Telegram to New York World. The President said to a *World* correspondent to-night: "Mr. Taylor's death was unexpected. I had been informed of his sickness, and had known for some time that he was afflicted with dropsy. His appointment as Minister to Germany was one of the few appointments I have made where no special pressure was exerted by any one in the appointment of his behalf. His fitness for the position because of his standing as a journalist, his familiarity with German literature, and his ability as an educated and talented gentleman, were well known to me, and as soon as I mentioned his name to Secretary Evans his appointment was virtually decided upon. Mr. Taylor was a native of Pennsylvania. Mr. Welch, our Minister to Great Britain, is also a Pennsylvanian, and the fact that two gentlemen from one State had been selected to fill important missions in Europe was suggested to me when the appointment of Mr. Taylor was made. But I felt that in some respects Mr. Taylor was more a representative of the United States at large than of one locality in particular. He was better known perhaps in New York than in Pennsylvania, and his fame as a literary man was almost world-wide."

A Warning to the South.

Philadelphia North American (Mep.) In 1861 the South appealed to the great body of the American people, and they came in companies, regiments, brigades, and divisions, and remained until their work was supposed to be done. They now find it was but partially accomplished, and if they come again under this new appeal, they will come to stay and settle in the South in such numbers that they will be able to protect their rights of person, property, or opinion, from outrage for all future time.

The Southern Election Outrages

Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette (Mep.) To palliate or ignore this condition of affairs is to abandon the attempt of self-government. If the franchise is good for anything, it must be fair and free. If a violent and murderous minority can place enough men in Congress to control its decisions, they are completely dominate the law making department as though they came armed and in warlike ranks to Washington, and, encompassing there, dictated the policy of Congress.

An Ohio fellow has been studying the recent census of the District of Columbia in order to prove that the Buckeyes have not gobbled everything. Of the 168,031 inhabitants of the District, according to the census completed last month, only 1,573 were born in Ohio, while New York has 5,634 and Pennsylvania 4,756. Another curiosity of the census is the extent to which the Southern population has been eliminated by the War and its results. Of the present population there were born in Alabama 218; Arkansas, 47; Florida, 99; Georgia, 330; Kentucky, 382; Louisiana, 239; Mississippi, 208; Tennessee, 240; Texas, 88; South Carolina, 409. Ohio has not yet had her share of the "fly-blown remnants that fall from the table of executive favor." Mr. Hayes ought to see to this matter.

A distinguished writer says: "The press is the guardian of our liberties; the pure sentiments of a good paper are to the mind what the cool, sparkling water is to the body—refreshing and health giving. Newspapers that teach justice and morality and advocate honesty and patriotism as the basis of good government should receive a liberal support from all who desire to advance the best interests of the public. A good paper should never languish for want of support. It should be upheld, strengthened and its usefulness enlarged by the patronage of those who believe in its sentiments. The great journals of our large cities may enlighten the people on the news of the world, but the country press, exerting its great influence in every section of our land, we are indebted for the molding of public sentiment on all important public questions." These are patent facts and deserve to be remembered.

YOUNG AMERICA in college needs a slight check. It is a question whether our higher colleges are developing the highest order of scholarship or manhood. Young men in college are allowed too many liberties. They spend too much money. Vice thrives with money. No young man whose pocket is lined with gold is apt to excel as a student; it is even far better to feel the sting and have to economize, than to live the easy, luxurious lives of many students at our universities. If the daily record of how the boy spent his money could be sent to the parents at home, it would be cause for real alarm and anxiety. It is well that boys and girls should have the comforts of life, but money has been the bane of many young men in college.

Phonia, Ill., Dec. 26.—At 2 o'clock this morning, Charles L. Otto, a jeweler reported to the authorities that his establishment had been robbed of \$2,500 in money and \$10,000 in valuable goods. Sheriff Hitchcock investigated the affair at once, and at daylight this morning arrested Otto himself as the thief. The case is one of the thinnest attempts at self-robbery ever made in this city. Otto had had a large holiday sale, and being heavily indebted to Eastern parties, took this method of getting even. Later in the morning Hitchcock arrested a brother of Otto, who has been here a few weeks, as an accomplice. Otto is a young German, who was married in the last German city, and with his recent escape from prison, he is probably a fugitive.

TELEGRAPHIC

ANOTHER RANDE.

RICHARDS, THE NEBRASKA THUG

Look out for the Epizootic.

A SLIPPERY TRANSACTION IN PORK

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 26.—The trial of the Democrats who were indicted in South Carolina for violating the Federal Election laws, and for interfering with Federal officials while in performance of their duty, will not take place until some time in February. It is understood here that leading Democrats are interesting themselves in these cases, and that already a sufficient sum of money to obtain the services of lawyers of distinction to defend the accused has been raised. It is quite probable that the Government will also employ special counsel to assist the United States District Attorney, as the trials are regarded as a test case and as establishing a precedent whether the Federal Election laws can be enforced or not. Chief Justice Waite will preside at the trial.

Inasmuch as all the money appropriated for the Potter committee has been expended, the Republican members cannot understand where the funds came from to defray the expenses of the subcommittee sent to New Orleans, unless it has been advanced by the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House, in the expectation that the House will make it good in a deficiency bill.

Acting under the advice of leading Republicans, E. W. Mackey has served notice of contest on General M. P. Connor, who obtained a certificate of election as Representative from the Charleston, S. C., District. It is believed to be a sure pail of proof that Connor owes his election to the stuffing of ballot-boxes with tissue tickets in Charleston county, and the refusal to allow a large number of colored Republicans to vote.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 26.—The Assistant Treasurers of the United States have been instructed to make no distinction between coin and legal tenders after the 1st of January.

Checks for the payment of interest on the 4 per cent loan, due on January 1, are being prepared.

The committee of the Senate, appointed under the Blaine resolution, has adjourned until the reassembling of Congress, when the Senate will be asked to authorize the use of the investigating fund which is now declared unavailable by the Treasury officers.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 26.—Herald gold fell to par orders at the Treasury Department for the standard silver dollars averaged about \$10,000 daily. To-day orders for 30,000 were received in one mail.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 26.—R. C. Wheeler & Co., a commission firm dealing largely in hogs and live stock, who did business near the Union Stock Yards yesterday, are among the missing to-day. Certain other parties are sufferers to the amount of \$10,000. Yesterday the firm bought hogs to that amount in the market, and, being Christmas, they gave checks on the Merchants' National Bank instead of paying cash. They sold the hogs again to other parties, receiving in payment checks amounting to over \$10,000. This morning Charles Forbes Jr., member of the firm, went to the Merchants' National Bank, drew out all the money the firm had in the bank, as well as money for checks received, amounting in all to \$23,000. When the firm's checks to hog drovers came in during the day there were no funds to pay them, and they went to the clearing-house thus indorsed. News of the swindle in this way got out and officers were put on the lookout for Wheeler and Forbes. Both were arrested to-night at their residences. Wheeler disclaimed any knowledge of Forbes' action, and was not molested. Forbes was locked up, and for a time refused bail. He will not talk, and has undoubtedly transacted the whole affair with a lawyer's advice. Forbes was, some six years ago, connected with the tobacco trade in St. Louis where he got into trouble, and only escaped by considerable trouble and expenditure of money.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—The trial of Mrs. Malinda Mack, indicted with her hired man, Frank Dickerson, for the murder of her husband, closed this morning with a verdict of guilty from the jury, with the extreme penalty of the law, the State Prison for life for the woman. Dickerson will be tried later. He turned State's evidence during the trial, and testified that Mrs. Mack had killed her husband with a stick of dynamite, and persuaded him to help carry the body to the barn, where it was placed under the feet of the horse, and the animal backed over the body several times to give it the appearance of having been kicked to death. He also swore that improper relations had existed between himself and Mrs. Mack for several months. The case excited much attention.

DUMFRIES, Ont., Dec. 26.—The house of John O'Brien, near here, was burned, and his wife, son and daughter perished. Himself and other members of the family, while walking through a furious storm, saw the house burning, and were badly injured. O'Brien will probably die.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—A man whose crimes dwarf those of the desperado Hands to very small proportions by comparison is in the city to-day. He is S. D. Richards, and this is his second visit to Chicago. He arrived this morning from near St. Louis, O., and will leave this evening for Kearney, Buffalo county, Neb., where, on his arrival, unless he has much better luck than now seems probable, he will be very promptly lynched. A reporter called on him to-day at the Harrison street police station where he is temporarily confined. He made a statement, of which the following is the substance:

I will be twenty-three years old next March. My mother is dead, and my father, who was, until recently a farmer, and other relations live in Jefferson county, O. I went West about two years ago, and have spent most of the time since then in Nebraska, although I have been further West; soon after arriving in Nebraska I fell in with another man, and we traveled together under assumed names; we did not do much of anything. I did very little work while in Nebraska. I had some money when I went West, and got more; I did not work for it, but got it in different ways. After traveling with my partner for a while, we had a difficulty, and he disappeared near Sand Hill. The circumstances that led to his disappearance was a cartridge from a revolver I carried. I shot the man; I did not bury him. There was no serious trouble between us. I then moved about the State until October, when I ran across Mrs. Mary L. Harrison near Kearney, in Buffalo county, whose husband had broken jail and run away. The last of October or the first of November, I gave out that she had gone to meet her husband, and had sold me all of her property. Her dead body, and the bodies of her three children, were found under a hay-stack. I put them there after I had killed them, and being afraid suspicion would rest on me after they were found, I ran away and went to Kearney county, where I got work on a farm belonging to Peter Anderson, who was quite well off. He and I had a fight, and he got killed between my fists and a hammer. It was only about a little trouble that arose between us; it was not about money. I did not get any money from any of the people I killed. The pretended confessions which say I did are false. The Anderson affair occurred in the early part of this month, and I left soon after. I started from Kearney county two weeks ago Monday, and stopped from Tuesday until Friday in Hastings, Neb., then came here on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, arriving at 8 o'clock Saturday evening, and got shaved at the Clifton House. I had side whiskers when I got here, and had them cut off, and left at 3:45 the same evening for Wheeling, W. Va., where I staid over Sunday and then went up to Mount Pleasant, where I was arrested by two citizens who knew me. I had expected lynching when I got back to Kearney, but the officers say I will get a fair trial. However, it is immaterial to me how the matter ends. I have committed the crimes, and will take my punishment like a man, let it come in whatever way it may.

Being questioned further, he refused to tell under what fictitious names he had traveled, and was very positive that the six cases enumerated were all of the murders he has committed. Sheriff D. Anderson, of Buffalo county, and Sheriff T. L. Martin, of Kearney county, say Richards was one of the leaders of a gang of desperadoes, who have been murdering and robbing on a very large scale for two years. They say there are at least nine murders that can be traced to Richards, and perhaps many more, and it is alleged that he has virtually confessed to the nine. Richards says he has never confessed just why he committed any of the murders, the nearest he has come to it being his statement as published above. The Chicago police received the circular offering a reward of \$200 for his arrest the day after he passed through the city. He will be taken west this evening, and his execution will probably follow close on his arrival in Nebraska.

NORTH AMHERST, O., Dec. 26.—The epizootic has made its appearance here, and has done great damage among horses. It is a very severe type of the disease.

MACON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT.

December Term, 1878.

FRIDAY, DEC. 27.

Court convened at 9 o'clock a. m., and proceeded with business as follows:

COMMON LAW DOCKET.

Ann M. Patterson vs. Wiley Buckles; assumpsit. Case continued.

PEOPLE'S DOCKET.

The People vs. Mason Gruber; robbery; trial by jury. Pending which adjourned to 11 o'clock.

Gruber's scarf pins, shirt studs, sleeve buttons—all the latest novelties—at W. W. Souder's, Merchant St. Dec. 26 d1w

None such.—All the latest charming, unique and attractive styles of Ladies' Slippers, at Fort's. [Oct 1-d&w]

Leases.—Private lands on farm lands. Nov. 30-d&w. J. M. Clorkey.

A nice Stereoscope and one dozen fine views for \$1, at J. M. Stookey & Co's. Dec. 30, d1w

Be sure to see those large, now Chromo that J. M. Stookey & Co. are selling at \$1.25. d&w-d&w

Bibles and Testaments, in all styles of binding, from 8 cents to \$5.00, very suitable for holiday presents, at the Bible Depository at Dec. 19-d1w Court House Block.

CHRISTMAS BEEF.

Imboden & Son have at their most market some of the finest cuts from the finest steer exhibited at the late fat cattle show in Chicago by Hamilton & Vanmeter, of Winchester, Ky., which weighed 2,440 pounds. These cuts from the fattest steer at the exhibition, are a sight to behold, and are well worth calling to see. This firm has also purchased of J. D. Gillett, of Elkhart, Ill., a two year old steer weighing 1800 pounds, which they will slaughter for the holiday trade, and also some extra fine cattle from the herd of Mr. Pickrell, of Harriestown, together with a full line of mutton, pork, veal and all varieties of meats, of the best quality. This old and reliable establishment makes it a point to keep the best of everything in their line, and the extensive patronage enjoyed by Imboden & Son shows that their enterprise is duly appreciated by their fellow-citizens. Dec. 29-d1w

TABERNACLE.

Grand Entertainment Friday Eve., December 27th.

The great thrilling temperance and sensational play in five acts and seven tableaux, entitled "The Drunkard's Home," under the immediate supervision of Prof. Wm. V. Mainburg and Lady, of St. Louis, will be produced Friday evening, Dec. 27th, embracing the following well-known ladies and gentlemen of Decatur: H. C. Hartley, of Quincy; R. L. Evans, Thon. Nelson, I. D. Walker, J. B. McDonald, W. C. Bullard, P. R. Williams, E. C. McDonald, J. B. McDonald, Jr., Nettie Solars, Miss Lou Henkle, Mrs. Emma Mainburg. Admission, 25 cents; children, 10 cents. [dec28-d1w]

Silk Handkerchiefs, Ties, Bows, Ruchings, Cuffs and Collars, in sets, and without sets, and lace sets, all fresh new goods, the latest styles, a suitable and useful present, you can find the largest stock at the lowest prices at Goldsmith's. Dec. 18-d&w

Beautiful presents, such as cameo sets for ladies and misses, cameo cuff buttons and rings of all sizes, at W. W. Souder's, Merchant street. [dec23 d1w]

The finest line of gents' underwear in the city, at Elliott & Anderson's. Dec. 20-d&w

Men's, boys' and youths' overcoats—best in the market—at Elliott & Anderson's. [dec20-d&w]

If you want mill feed, corn or oats, you can be supplied at SHELLEBARGER'S. Dec. 18-d&w

More bargains in holiday goods, at J. M. Stookey & Co's. Don't fail to look in there before purchasing. [dec20 d1w]

An Elegant Assortment of fine all-wool Scotch Cassimere Suits, for young men's wear, at B. STINE'S, The Boss Clothier. Oct. 8-d1w

FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Or any Other Days.

ROGER'S

Silver Plated Casters,

PICKLE JARS, single and double; KNIVES and FORKS, triple plate; CARD RECEIVERS; SILVER MOUNTED FRUIT BOWLS;

A new article of solid steel nickel and silver-plated SPOONS and FORKS—very durable; BRONZE and CHINA CARD RECEIVERS; CHINA MUSTACHE CUPS; MOTTO CUPS and SAUCERS; A great variety of CHINA, METAL, and other FANCY GOODS;

TOYS!

In wood, metal, glass, china, and composition.

DOLLS!

All sizes—china and wax; A Job lot of large WAX DOLLS, at half price;

SLEDS and WAGONS

CRADLES, BEDSTEADS, GIRL'S ROCKERS, BOYS' ROCKING HORSES;

WORK BASKETS, CARD BASKETS, and BASKETS for almost all uses;

SKATES!

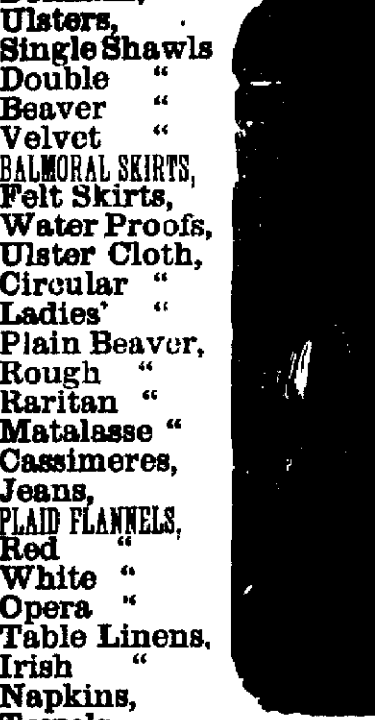
Children's KNIVES and FORKS; Elegant BRONZE TABLE LAMPS, half price;

And hundreds of other ornamental and useful articles that for want of space in the columns of this paper I cannot mention.

ONE WORD MORE—I am determined to reduce my Immense Stock of Goods, and will sell without regard to profit. You can have bargains by buying of

R. LIDDLE, Court House Block, Dec. 27-d&w

OLOAKS, Dolmans, Ulsters, Single Shawls Double Beaver "Velvet "BALMORAL SKIRTS, Felt Skirts, Water Proofs, Ulster Cloth, Circular "Ladies" "Plain Beaver, Rough "Kartan "Matalasse "Cassimeres, Jeans, PLAID FLANNELS, Red "White "Opera "Table Linens, Irish "Napkins, Towels, Quilts. Nov. 30-d&w.



HAYS & BARTHOLOMEW. NO. 25 WATER STREET.

I WILL SELL

MY LARGE STOCK OF

READY-MADE

CLOTHING!

At the VERY LOWEST PRICES FOR CASH.

HOLIDAY GOODS

In the line of Neckties, Handkerchiefs, Scarfs, Gloves, Hosiery, Collars, Etc.—all at lowest prices.

REMEMBER, I WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD.

Come and see Goods and Prices.

OUR MERCHANT TAILORING DEPARTMENT

Is under the charge of a FIRST CLASS CUTTER, and is stocked with a splendid Assortment of Piece Goods

PANTALOONS MADE TO ORDER FOR \$5 TO \$8,

And other Goods in proportion. Fits warranted. A trial is all I ask

I. W. EHRMAN, No. 22 East Main Street. Dec. 18, 1878-d&w

Your Last Chance

TO-DAY

WILL BE THE LAST DAY OF OUR

PUBLIC SALE!

CALL EARLY TO

SECURE BARGAINS.

S. EINHSTEIN. Dec. 27, 1878-d&w

W. R. ABBOTT,

THE ONLY RELIABLE

JEWELER!

In Decatur, offers to the trade a stock of

GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES.

FINE JEWELRY,

SOLID SILVER & SILVER PLATED WARE,

CLOCKS, SPECTACLES, and FANCY GOODS, Etc.,

AT PRICES LOWER THAN EVER.

STOCK AS LARGE AS ANY IN THE CITY.

And for superior quality of Goods and desirable Styles, is not equaled.

THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED HOUSE, AND POSITIVELY THE ONLY EXPERIENCED JEWELER IN THE CITY.

HONEST DEALING, AND THE LOWEST PRICES TO EVERYBODY.

NO. 9 MAIN STREET.

Dec. 27, 1878-d&w

CITY DEPART

WE are authorized to announce that the following candidates at the coming municipal election:

NEXT in order—New Year

ICE is eight and nine inches

TOWNSHIP most more accurate

DRUNKARD'S HOME at

to night.

MORE new bargains daily.

key & Co's.

The fire the other morning

impulse to the Insurance bu

EVERYBODY, look at the

slippers.

SLEIGHING was slight; o

day and last night.

BIO FAT OUTRAGE, ever

at "MARTIN'S."

NEW Year gifts are just

any, provided they are

wants.

YOUNG BROS. are well fr

day trade. Call and see.

Dec. 19-d1w

E. B. PRATT shipped ni

to Connecticut on Tuesday

intends to ship another car

he can purchase them.

By the time those who ar

cutters get them the snow

be getting a little thin, th

prophets give us two month

REMEMBER, the place to

at Barber & Baker's

It is said that diphtheria

crossed in the city, and that

as children, are having i

caution in regard to con

cannot be exercised.

REMEMBER the large sto

that C. B. Prescott is sellin

Nov. 25-d&w

The grand jury will re

week from next Monday,

such cases as may yet rem

sidered, and such as have

during the recess

C. B. Prescott's is the p

fine Piano or Organ for a C

ent.

FARMERS in from the sur



CITY DEPARTMENT.

WE are authorized to announce JOHN A. HICKMAN as a candidate for City Marshal at the ensuing municipal election.

Next in order—New Year's gifts. It is bright and nine inches in thickness. To be sent more securely than they are.

THE DRUNKARD'S HOME at the tabernacle.

More new bargains daily, at J. M. Stoddard's.

The fire the other morning gave a new impulse to the insurance business.

EVERYBODY look at Barber & Baker's.

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A NOTORIOUS JAIL BIRD.

John Pierce Breaks into the State Prison—A Lockyromose Old Bannier with an interesting history.

In the circuit court on Friday, the 26th inst., John Pierce, aged about 50 years, was sentenced to the penitentiary for a term of two years. It will be remembered that this man was arrested here some time ago for the larceny of a lot of clothing, and when the officers made an inventory of his effects a miscellaneous array of stolen articles were found, among them a valuable medicine case which was stolen from Dr. Barnes two years ago, and an overcoat belonging to the editor of the HERRICKIAN, taken from this office last fall.

Frank Murray, deputy warden of the state prison at Chester, Ill., has written Sheriff Forstmyer a letter giving an exact description of Pierce, and detailing a few facts concerning his past history, which may prove interesting to our readers. It seems that Mr. Murray is well acquainted with Pierce. He says that the records show that Pierce has served two terms in the Ohio state prison as John Williams; one term in the Louisiana prison as John Pierce, and one term in the Iowa prison as John Pierce, alias Pierce. He has repeatedly been placed behind the bars as a horse-thief and burglar, and has served five years in the Joliet prison. He effected his escape from the Joliet prison, but was recaptured at Ottawa, Ill., when there was found upon his person two five dollar gold coins and a lady's gold watch and chain, which he had received from a trusting farmer for a horse he had stolen soon after his escape. When returned to the pen he wore a ball and chain until he was discharged. Pierce is the fraud who got up such a sensation while in jail at Bloomington two years ago, by confessing that he was the murderer of Murray McConnell, of Jacksonville, whose murder was and still is shrouded in the deepest mystery. Pierce's confession was the subject of much speculation by the newspapers throughout the state, and the Bloomington publishers printed columns of "swash" about the "murderer of McConnell," and represented him as the most hardened criminal that ever was incarcerated in the McLean county jail. At another time Pierce while in jail pretended to be old man Bender, the notorious Kansas murderer. Officers came on to take him in custody, but he didn't tally with the description of Bender, and the officers returned home sold. He is an old fraud of the first water, and is always giving the officers trouble about one thing or another. Standing before a judge he can appear in the deepest grief, the tears flowing from his eyes as if he was weeping over the coffin of a dear departed friend. He can play the crazy dodge to perfection, feign to be indifferent as to his case, pretend to be ignorant of the law, etc., etc., and has been discharged from jail scores of times by clever tactics of this kind.

He will be taken to the Chester prison, where he will renew his acquaintance with Warden Murray, who closes his letter by saying that "Pierce is a daisy, and an unsafe man to be at large."

THE DRUNKARD'S HOME.—This evening the "Drunkard's Home" is to be presented at the tabernacle by Professor Malmborg and lady, assisted by the best home talent. The play is a thrilling one, and with the talent which the Professor has enlisted for its rendition, the entertainment will doubtless be excellent. Admission for adults only 25 cents, and for children 10 cents.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH SERVICE.—This evening the Rt. Rev. Geo. F. Seymour, Bishop of the Springfield Diocese, will preach at the Episcopal church and administer the right of confirmation. The Bishop came in from Springfield by the 11:30 train, and is the guest of Mr. L. Burrows during his stay here.

NEW CUTTERS AND FASHIONERS.—Hardy Bros., who always keep up with the times, have just placed in their stable several new and nobby cutters, which, when drawn by their footed steeds, glide over the ice with lightning-like rapidity, attracting the admiration of all beholders.

SPARROWS.—We have brought the sparrows to our city, and now they are freezing and starving. Will not the kind-hearted see that bread crumbs and other food suitable does not find its way into the stop-bucket, but is placed where it can be seen by these sufferers?

HUMANITY.—At the regular meeting of the Decatur Reform Club last night, the trustees of the tabernacle made a partial statement of the financial condition of the edifice. It appears that the cost of the erection and furnishing of the building was something over \$4,400, and that the concern is still in debt about \$1700.

THE meeting held at the tabernacle last night to arrange for the grand temperance fair and festival, was well attended. Committees were appointed to solicit contributions of provisions and articles for sale. The several committees commenced operations this morning, and the matter will be pushed vigorously forward so that the festival may open on Tuesday evening of next week. Persons having articles that will meet with a very ready sale on an occasion of this kind, are requested to have them at the tabernacle by Tuesday morning of next week so that they can be properly arranged during the day.

REWARDED.—Steele & Price, the manufacturers of Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder, are rewarded by their reputation of manufacturing good articles. It is a shameful custom to make that many people are willing to use adulterated articles because of a small reduction in price.

Special Notice.—All persons holding certificates of membership in the Pioneer Relief Association are requested to meet at this office on Friday Eve., Dec 27th, to take action towards the organization of the Decatur subdivision. By order of the committee.

Oyster News, Selects, per dozen, 25c. Fry, Rowers, Big Os, pr. doz., 30c. Raws, Saddle Rocks, 20c. Oysters on the Half Shell, Big Os, per doz., 30c, at the Oyster Bar. Dec. 24-dtd

Query.—Why will men smoke common tobacco, when they can buy Harding Bros. Seal of North Carolina tobacco at the same price?

FUNERAL OF J. G. STARR.

Services by Rev. N. P. Heath, of Champaign—Impressive Masonic Ceremony.

According to previous announcement the funeral of the late J. G. Starr took place this morning at the 1st M. E. church at 104 o'clock. Rev. N. P. Heath, of Champaign, officiating, assisted by Rev. Dr. Goodrich, pastor of the church, and Rev. Mr. MacDermott, of Stapp's Chapel.

At ten o'clock the Beaumanoir Commandery of Knight Templars, together with the Decatur Lodge of Master Masons, reported to the late residence of deceased on West Main street, and took the body in charge, bearing it to the 1st M. E. church, where a large audience had already gathered to witness the solemn services, which were commenced by the singing of an appropriate hymn by a quartette consisting of Messrs. George F. Wesels and D. L. Bunn, and Mrs. J. C. Lake and Mrs. A. W. Conklin. Mr. Frank Imboden presiding at the organ.

A most earnest and appropriate prayer was then offered by the officiating clergyman, which was followed by the hymn commencing, "Servant of God, well done."

Rev. Mr. Heath delivered an able and impressive discourse from the words in Matthew, 26th chapter, 28 verse. "Well done, good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." In the course of his remarks the speaker paid a high compliment to the character of deceased, and from his life and death drew impressive lessons of instruction for the living.

At the conclusion of the religious services at the church, the Masonic burial service was performed before leaving the house, after which the body was taken to Greenwood Cemetery, where it was committed to its last resting place by the Masonic fraternity, of which deceased had long been an honored member.

DEATH FROM PARALYSIS.

As stated in these columns yesterday, on Tuesday evening last Mr. William H. Cummings, who lived at 98 North Main street, was stricken with paralysis, by which he was rendered helpless and speechless. From the time of his being stricken he gradually failed until last evening just as the sun was setting he gently breathed his last, in just about 49 hours from the time of receiving the stroke which terminated his life.

Mr. Cummings had been a resident of Decatur about fifteen years, and was highly respected as one of our most worthy citizens. Since his residence in Decatur he has most of the time been engaged in the sale of agricultural implements, being at one time the head clerk of the firm of Barber & Hawley. In later years he carried on business for himself in the Priest House Block, from which he retired about two years ago. Deceased was a quiet, unassuming gentleman, but was very cheerful and companionable in his intercourse with his acquaintances. His age was about 50 years.

He leaves a widow and two daughters to mourn his loss; one of the daughters residing with her parents here; the other being married and settled in Ogdensburg, N. Y., where the remains are to be taken for interment.

A SUCCESSFUL TRIP.—The Lady Hilda Dramatic Combination (ten amateur specialty artists of this city) appeared before a large and delighted audience at Lovington last night, and our special reporter informs us that "Lady Hilda" (Miss Kate Abbott) took the house by storm, the spectators with one impulse rising in their seats and leaving the hall—after the performance ended. The double eug-dance by Newell and Staines, the trick dance by Lunsford, Newell and Banister, the thrilling "statute" act, and the grand walk around by the company, are each reported as having been immense. It is semi-officially stated that the receipts were \$49; expenses \$24.15. The company returned from Lovington at noon to-day, by the Midland road. The mean report current on the streets this morning, that the troupe were showered with ancient eggs instead of fragrant, sweet-smelling bouquets, is entirely without foundation and a base fabrication. We are informed that the company is billed to appear at several other towns in this immediate neighborhood.

A GRIEVAANCE.

The following special telegram was received at this office just as we go to press: LOVINGTON, Ill., Dec. 27. Decatur RECEPTION.—Lady Hilda's combination, consisting of three of America's finest stars, from Decatur, gave our people, last night, a showing of their unequalled talents. Middle Crum, also C. Staines and J. Lunsford, received hearty scores from the audience. We will come them back at any time—with eggs. BROWN, Agt.

Evidently the people of Lovington are prejudiced.

AUCTION! AUCTION!—Don't forget that Elstein is bound to sell his entire stock of dry goods and notions at any sacrifice that may be necessary to make a clean sweep of everything. To-morrow will be a great day at this sale, as goods will be knocked down to bidders in a hurry. Such a chance for bargains may never offer again, and all who consult their interest will be on hand to share in the good bargains that will be realized. Come everybody, before it is too late.

ARRESTED FOR STEALING.—James Howard was lodged in the county jail last night at the instance of R. Ashby, who charges the young man with the larceny of clothing and other articles taken from his place of business on yesterday. Sheriff Forstmyer made the arrest. Howard until recently was employed by Ashby as an upholsterer. He will have a preliminary hearing before Justice Albert.

Bryant's Complete Poems, in four styles of binding, just received at J. M. Stoddard & Co's.

PLEASANT PARTIES.

"Surprise" on Edward and Morgan Streets Last Night.

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Roby were completely surprised at their residence on North Edward street last evening. A party of about thirty couples assembled at the home of Ald. John T. Barnett, and from thence proceeded in a body to Mr. Roby's, headed by the Italian Band, the guests carrying in their arms "food for the feast" securely wrapped up in mysterious packages. Arriving at the house the Italians played a stirring serenade, when Mr. Roby opened the door and his eyes beheld a long string of visitors, who commenced filing into the house, and didn't stop short until the last one had entered. Mr. and Mrs. Roby, assisted by Miss Misenbeller, gave all a very cordial greeting, and throughout the evening, (which was one happy round of sociability and dancing), the host and hostess were everywhere present, making everybody feel "just as young as they used to be," and perfectly at home. At a seasonable hour the party partook of a splendid supper, and the company reluctantly separated for home at 2 A. M., delighted with their visit.

Dr. B. F. Sibley's residence, on Morgan street, was invaded by a small party of "surprise" last evening, in honor of the doctor's son, Will Sibley, who is home from Newman for the holidays. Of course there was dancing, the music being furnished by Prof. Wilhelmy.

PERSONAL MENTION.

S. P. Quinn was missed at the Roby surprise party last night.

Hon. Anthony Thornton, of Shelbyville, is in the city, and visited the court room to-day.

J. H. Pickrell, of Hannaburgh, drove to town to-day in a cutter, behind a pair of tony gray nags.

Will Scudder's stock of holiday jewelry, at Hubbard's drug store, is selling off rapidly. The novelties are very pretty.

Capt. Will N. Butler, of Champaign, arrived in the city yesterday, and will spend the holidays with friends here.

Charles Adams spent his Christmas on the rail, accompanying a lady friend eastward as far as Danville, then going to Virdean, Ill., returning home this morning.

Mr. Jake B. Murray, agent for the Hyers Sisters Combination, is in the city to-day, making arrangements for the appearance of this excellent company at the Opera House on January 10th. They will appear in their new play, "Urania."

STATE TEACHERS MEETING.—The twenty-fifth annual session of the State Teachers' Association convened at Representatives' Hall, in Springfield, at 9:25 o'clock Thursday morning, there being a very large attendance of teachers from all parts of the state. Prof. E. A. Gastman was appointed one of the committee on resolutions, and Prof. I. E. Brown a member of the auditing committee. Prof. Gastman took part in the discussion before the convention yesterday afternoon.

Dennis & Rea have just invoiced one of the largest lots of fine silver plated ware that has ever been offered in this city, consisting of magnificent dinner and breakfast castors of the most beautiful design, gold-lined cups, table forks and spoons, and a great variety of plated goods too numerous to mention. Those wishing articles for holiday gifts should not fail to examine these splendid goods, as they cannot be surpassed in quality nor discounted in price. (Dec 7 d&w 1m)

SOCIETY people are anxiously looking forward to the Guards' fifth military soiree, which occurs on New Year's Eve. It will be the social event of the season, bringing to the city parties from Springfield, Champaign, Decatur, Mt. Pulaski, Bloomington, and other neighboring cities.

NEW GOODS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

W. W. Scudder, the jeweler at J. T. Hubbard's drug store, Merchant street, has just returned from Chicago with an endless variety of watches, sets of ladies' jewelry, gold rings, scarf rings, napkin rings, silver goblets, gents' gold chains, and elegant necklaces for ladies, etc.—all selected especially for the holiday trade. Charms, from \$10 down. Prices as low as the lowest, and everything just as represented, or money refunded. Call and see goods and learn prices before buying elsewhere. Dec 21-dwif

Gents' Slippers, in every style and price, at Barber & Baker's. Dec 17-dawif

NOTICE.

In the matter of the estate of Samuel M. Starr, deceased. THE undersigned trustee of the above-named bankrupt hereby gives notice that in pursuance of an order of the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of Illinois, he will sell the uncollected notes, judgments and accounts belonging to the estate of said bankrupt at public sale, at the front door of the court house, in Decatur, Illinois, between the hours of 10 o'clock A. M. and 4 o'clock P. M., on Friday, the 10th day of January, 1879, for cash, all bids subject to the approval or rejection of the trustee and the court. D. W. BROWN, Assignee. Dec. 27-dtd

Administrator's Notice.

Estate of WILLIAM RAYNER, Sr., deceased. PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to all persons having claims and demands against the estate of William Rayner, Sr., deceased, to present the same for adjudication and settlement at a regular term of the county court of Macon county, to be held at the court-house, in the city of Decatur, on the second Monday of February, A. D. 1879, being the first day of said term. BENJAMIN G. McLELLAND, Administrator. Dec. 21-dw

ALSO

ENGRAVING.

Our Repair Department will still be under the personal care of our senior member, Otto E. Curtis, who has had charge of the Watch Department over 10 years here at the same stand.

ALL GOODS SOLD BY US WILL BE ENGRAVED FREE OF CHARGE.

Call and see us.

CURTIS & EWING.

CURTIS AND EWING, THE JEWELERS.

Have completed their elegant improvements at their old stand, and now offer to the public the LARGEST and MOST EXTENSIVE STOCK in every department, in the State of Illinois, outside of Chicago.

We have spared no pains to make our stock complete, and trust, by honest dealing and by maintaining our **PAST REPUTATION FOR LOW PRICES**, and no misrepresentations, to find Decatur will sustain a

"REGULAR" JEWELRY STORE.

Our stock consists of a nice line of

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Very Large Stock of

Ladies' and Gents' Gold Watches,

" " Silver Watches,

" " Gold Chains,

" " Plated Chains,

" " Gold Lockets,

Ladies' Gold Necklaces,

" Gold Thimbles,

" Gold & Silver Glove Buttons

" Fine Gold Sets,

" " and Cameo Sets,

Ladies' and Gents' Gold Rings—

Plain, Chased, Band, and all other styles of Stone Rings.

FINE LINE OF PLATED SETS

Elegant line of Gold and Plated Cuff Pins, Cuff Buttons, Vest Pins, Shawl Pins, Bosom Pins, Lace Pins, Safety Pins, Ladies' and Children's Bar Rings, Gents' and Plated Collar Buttons, Scarf Pins, Scarf Rings, Single Studs, Sets of Studs, and Cuff Buttons. Our

SILVERWARE

Is complete this time, consisting of

Silver Tea Sets,

" Water Sets,

" Waiters,

" Epergnes,

" Fruit Dishes,

" Berry Dishes with Glass,

" Nut Bowls,

" Confectionery Stands,

" Jewel Caskets,

" Toilet Sets,

" Cake Baskets,

" Butter Dishes,

" Bowls for broken ice,

" Card Stands,

" Pickle Stands,

" Jelly Stands,

" Flower Vases,

" Celery Stands,

" Perfume Stands,

" Watch Stands,

" Mounted Thermometers,

As well as a most elegant array of Castors and Napkin Rings in endless variety.

In Silver Goods, with Morocco Satinized Cases, our stock is unsurpassed. It consists of

Silver Pie Knives,

" Portmonnaies,

" Sugar Shells,

" " with Butter Knife,

" Butter Knives, in pairs,

" " single,

" Child's Sets,

" School Sets,

" College Sets,

" Ice Cream Spoons,

" Sugar Tonges,

" Nut Picks and Cracks,

" Knives and Forks,

" Salt Dishes, with spoons,

" Soup Ladles,

" Gravy Ladles







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Dec. 21--48wt4]

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